

# IOWA BIRD LIFE

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Summer 1993 Volume 63 Number 3



IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

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Summer 1993

Volume 63, Number 3

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FRONT COVER: Pine Warbler at Pleasantville, Marion County, 10 January 1992. Photograph by Tim Schantz, Otley, Iowa.

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The IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION, founded in 1923, encourages interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and seeks to unite those who have these interests in common. *Iowa Bird Life* and *I.O.U. News* are quarterly publications of the Union.

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Institutions may subscribe to *Iowa Bird Life* for \$15 per year. Individuals may join the Iowa Ornithologists' Union according to the following membership classes: Regular (\$15); Regular as spouse or minor child of another Regular member without publications (\$4 first additional family member, \$2 each additional family member); Contributing (\$15 plus any additional tax-deductible contribution to the I.O.U.); and Life (\$300 as single payment or \$75 for each of four years). Members will also receive the quarterly *I.O.U. News* and are eligible to vote and hold office in the Union. Send subscriptions, membership payments, or address changes to Pam Allen, 1601 Pleasant St., West Des Moines, IA 50265.

## INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

Original manuscripts, notes, letters (indicate if for publication), editorials, and other materials relating to birds and bird finding in Iowa should be sent to the editor. Accepted manuscripts will generally be published promptly, depending on space available, with the following absolute deadlines: 15 November for the Winter issue; 15 February for the Spring issue; 15 May for the Summer issue; and 15 July for the Fall issue. Most manuscripts will be refereed. All material should be typed double-spaced or hand printed in ink on 8 1/2 by 11 inch paper. Authors should pattern their style after a current issue of the journal. If you want more detailed guidelines or advice regarding the appropriateness of your topic for *Iowa Bird Life*, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to the editor. Manuscripts may also be submitted on computer disk (Word 4.0 for Macintosh or compatible programs). Please submit one printed copy of the manuscript with the disk.

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## UPCOMING MEETINGS OF IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

\* 24-26 September 1993 , Spencer (note this is a revised date)

20-22 May 1994, Ames

## FIELD REPORTS

Anyone observing birds in Iowa is encouraged to report their findings on a quarterly basis to the Field Reports editors. Sample reporting and documentation forms suitable for duplication are available from the editor (send self-addressed stamped envelope to Jim Dinsmore, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50010). An article describing the reporting process is also available.

Deadlines for receipt of field reports are as follows:

\*Winter (Dec, Jan, Feb)--3 March (W. Ross Silcock, Box 300, Tabor, IA 51653)

\*Spring (Mar, Apr, May)--3 June (Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246)

\*Summer (Jun, Jul)--3 August (James J. Dinsmore, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50010)

\*Fall (Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov)--3 December (Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246)

## CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

\*Deadline for receipt of reports: 15 January. For forms and instructions write: W. Ross Silcock, Box 300, Tabor, IA 51653.

## IOWA BIRDLINE 319-338-9881

The birdline is a recorded summary of interesting recent bird sightings in Iowa. At the end of the report you can leave a message and report recent sightings. Be sure to give your name and phone number as well as the location of the bird and date seen. Call in as soon as possible after sighting a rare bird. Jim Fuller checks the reports daily and updates the recording on Monday, so make sure Sunday sightings are reported by Sunday night.

## I.O.U. NEWS

Send items of interest for the newsletter to the editors (J. Hank and Linda Zaletel, 715 West St., Colo, IA 50056).

## MATERIALS AVAILABLE

The following materials may be obtained by writing the editorial office (Iowa Bird Life, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50010):

\*Order form for back issues of *Iowa Bird Life*: send self-addressed stamped envelope.

\*Field Checklist of Iowa Birds--1992 Edition: 6 for \$1.00, postpaid. Also available at annual meetings.

## REPORTING NEBRASKA BIRDS

Sightings of Nebraska birds, including those within the Nebraska portion of DeSoto N.W.R., should be reported to Loren and Babs Padelford, 1405 Little John Road, Bellevue, NE 68005. Formats for reporting and documentation are the same as for Iowa. The Nebraska Bird Line, available 24 hours a day, is 402-292-5325. Iowa birders are encouraged to report their Nebraska sightings to this number.

## ADDRESS CHANGES

Please send address changes/corrections to Pam Allen, 1601 Pleasant St., West Des Moines, IA 50265.

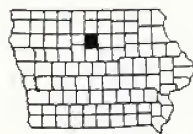
ISSN 0021-0455



# BIRDING LAKES AND MARSHES IN WRIGHT COUNTY

STEPHEN J. DINSMORE

The five prairie pothole marshes described below are the last remnants of what much of north-central Iowa looked like a century ago. For the best birding, plan a trip in spring or early summer so both migrants and breeding birds can be seen. A half-day trip is necessary to visit all of the areas. A canoe is recommended for coverage of some of the larger wetlands.



Begin at the south boat ramp at Big Wall Lake (1). This parking lot is 0.3 miles west of Highway 69 in southern Wright County. Follow the signs from Highway 69. From here you can see much of the south end of this 970-acre marsh. During spring, and sometimes into early summer during wet years, the entire east side of the marsh consists of open water with scattered clumps of cattail and bulrush. Thousands of ducks and geese use this area in spring. Dabbling ducks predominate, though large numbers of Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, and Ruddy Duck are also present. Vegetative cover determines the bird diversity here during summer. Regular breeding species include Pied-billed Grebe, Least Bittern, Virginia Rail, Common Moorhen, Black Tern, Marsh Wren, Swamp Sparrow, and Yellow-headed Blackbird. During wet years, when open water is more extensive, species like Black-crowned Night-Heron, Redhead, Ruddy Duck, American Coot, and Forster's Tern may nest. Great-tailed Grackles have been seen here several times, and nested in 1986. The wooded area around the boat ramp may harbor migrants during spring, and species like Acadian Flycatcher and Prothonotary Warbler have been seen. Late summer and fall are less productive, though numbers of shorebirds may use the area if water levels are low. In fall, this is a popular duck hunting area, and birding is usually unproductive. Winter birding is very slow, though sometimes a Short-eared Owl may be seen flying over the marsh at dusk. If you have a canoe, this is the best access to Big Wall Lake.

Return to Highway 69, go north (left) 1 mile, and then turn west into the north boat ramp area (2). It is difficult to impossible to see much open marsh from here. However, this is a good area to listen for rails, including King Rail. On calm mornings or evenings, especially in early May, listen for American Bitterns. The shrubs around the pond north of the parking lot usually have several Willow Flycatchers from May through July.

Return to Highway 69 and turn left. Continue north for 1.0 mile and turn left (west) on a gravel road. Drive west for 2.0 miles and turn left again on a gravel road. Continue south for 1.0 mile, then turn left (east) and drive to the end of the road (3). A large area of open water to the northeast often harbors waterfowl in spring and herons and shorebirds during later summer. Black Terns have nested here, and a Common Moorhen is a good possibility during May and June. Sharp-tailed Sparrows have been seen along the edge of the marsh, just north of the parking area. This is also a good area to flush Soras and Virginia Rails, and Yellow Rail is a possibility during migration. During dry years, this is the most likely area to have shorebirds and herons. Little Blue Heron and Yellow-crowned Night-Heron have been seen here during late summer.

Retrace your route back to Highway 69, turn left (north) and proceed 6 miles to the intersection with Highway 3. Continue north onto a gravel road. Go north one

mile, then west 1.5 miles, and then north another mile and watch for the lane on your left that will take you to a parking lot on the southeast corner of Elm Lake

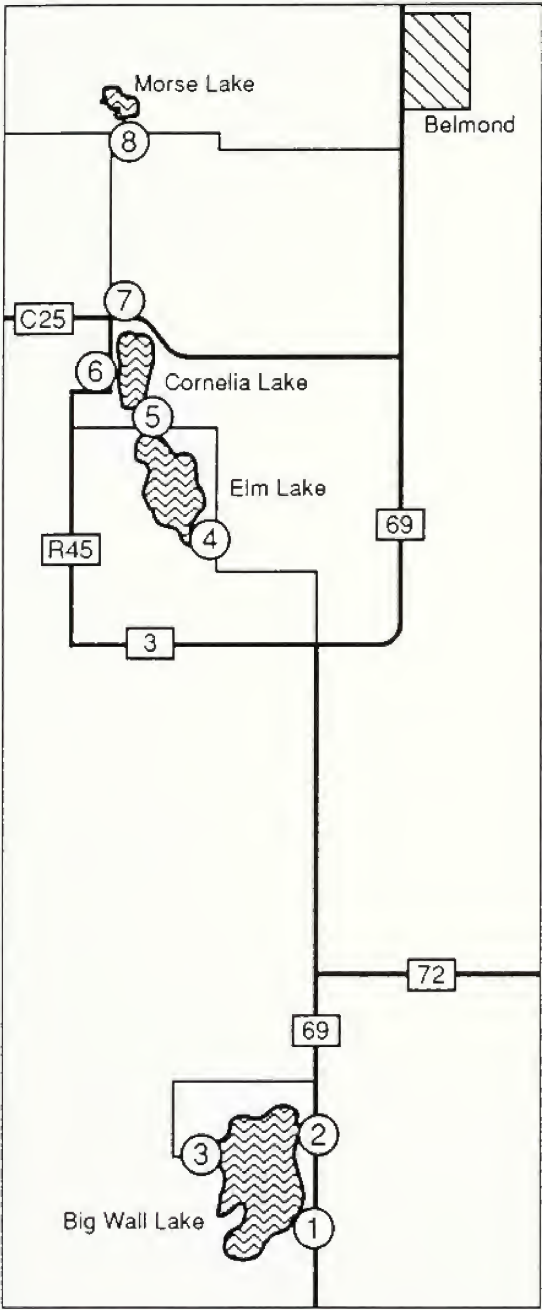


Figure 1. Map of birding areas in Wright County. Circled numbers refer to numbered areas described in text.

(4). This 466-acre marsh is mostly open water, though there is some cattail marsh along the fringes. This area lacks the marsh birds found on Big Wall Lake, but makes up for it in a greater variety of diving ducks, grebes, and other deep-water species. Good numbers of ducks, especially Canvasback, Ring-necked Duck, and scaup, are present in March and early April. Hundreds of American White Pelican use the area each spring, with some remaining all summer. Waterbird diversity is low during summer, with Pied-billed Grebe, Canada Goose, Mallard, and Wood Duck being the most likely breeding species. In the marsh and shrubs around the parking lot, you should find Willow Flycatcher and Marsh Wren during summer. A few Yellow-headed Blackbirds may also nest some years. From here, drive north 1.0 miles to the T intersection and turn left (west). Continue for 1.1 mile to the entrance to the north boat ramp on your left (5). Migrants can be found in the trees along the lake, and Iowa's first Western Wood-Pewee was found here in 1979.

Just north of Elm Lake is Lake Cornelia (6), a heavily wooded 248-acre lake where boats often outnumber the birds. There are several access points on the north and west sides of the lake, though the best vantage point is from the DNR boat ramp on the west side of the lake. To reach this site, go west from the northwest corner of Elm Lake for 1 mile to road R45. Turn right (north) and follow this blacktop road; in about a mile it will take you to the west side of lake Cornelia. Migrant waterfowl and American White Pelicans can be common in spring. At other seasons, birding is generally unproductive, though a few waterfowl can be seen during fall.

The next stop is at Walker Slough (7) located northwest of Lake Cornelia just north of county road C25. The best view of this small marsh is from the shoulder of C25. This small 25-acre state-owned marsh is good for migrant waterfowl in spring, and often harbors a few shorebirds in late summer.

Take the gravel road that borders the west side of Walker Slough and continue north 2.5 miles to a T intersection. Morse Lake (8), also known as Twin Sister Lake, is just north of this intersection. This small 64-acre lake can have excellent birding, especially during dry periods. The lake is often devoid of birds, except during early spring when hundreds of ducks and geese use the area. Other than a few breeding Canada Geese, Wood Ducks, and Mallards, the lake is usually unproductive in summer. However, one or two Bell's Vireos are usually present in the scrubby areas along the south side of the lake. If water levels are low, the small area of mudflats on the south side of the lake may have a few shorebirds, gulls, and terns in late summer and fall. Marbled Godwit, Red-necked Phalarope, and Common Tern have been seen during such periods. Fall birding is often slow, though Surf Scoter has been seen in October. The small marshy areas along the south side of the lake may have breeding species like Pied-billed Grebe, Marsh Wren, and Swamp Sparrow during wet years. These sites, especially the westernmost area, can have excellent shorebirding in late summer, with concentrations of hundreds of birds sometimes present. When you are through here, take the road along the south side of Morse Lake and drive east about 3.5 miles; this will return you to highway 69 just south of Belmond.

As you drive among these sites, watch for Gray Partridge, which is fairly common. Upland Sandpipers are uncommon in summer. In winter, Northern Shrikes have been seen here several times, especially near the larger marshes.

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# RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING BY IOWA BIRDERS

THOMAS H. KENT

Active birders often keep records of the birds that they see for their own personal use and for reporting to compilers of state and regional seasonal reports. These records kept by individual birders provide much of our knowledge of bird distribution in North America. I have kept records for 44 years, submitted records for 17 years, and compiled seasonal reports for 14 years. During this time I have noted that birders use a variety of record keeping and reporting techniques. Here I report the results of a questionnaire on record keeping and reporting and discuss them along with some of my own ideas.

## METHODS

Iowa birders who regularly, irregularly, and rarely send in quarterly field reports were queried about their record keeping and reporting techniques. Of the 81 questionnaires sent, 46 (57%) were returned. The returns were biased in favor of regular reporters with a response rate of 80% (24/30) compared to 52% (11/21) of those who send in reports irregularly and 37% (11/30) of those who rarely send in reports.

## RESULTS

The respondents indicate a high level of birding activity with 16 birding as often as possible, 25 birding regularly all year or intensively part of the year, and 5 birding several times a year. This group averaged 121 days in the field per year (for at least one hour per day). Six people bird 300 or more days a year.

Only one person did not keep records. The level of record keeping varied from recording all species seen on each trip (41%), to recording most interesting species on each trip (46%), to sometimes recording species seen (13%). Other data recorded in order of frequency were locations visited (89%), birding companions (65%), counts or estimates of the numbers of some species (61%), weather conditions (52%), counts or estimates of numbers for all species (26%), and a list of species seen without counts (24%). Other data kept included notes on habitat, behavior, and nesting (13%). In addition, 48% take photographs of birds, 17% make drawings, and 7% make sound recordings.

Methods of recording species seen on trips varied: a constructed (handwritten) list (56%), I.O.U. Field Checklist (41%), modified checklist (13%), and computer list (11%). Three people use local checklists. Respondents were asked whether they recorded information in the field (as opposed to later). Notes on rarities were usually made in the field by 79%. Species lists were usually made in the field by 61%, and counts were usually recorded in the field by 36%. Record keeping is enjoyed by 89% (but 60% of these people sometimes find it a drag). Record keeping is not enjoyed by 11%, but they do it because it needs to be done. Although I did not ask how many people use computers for record keeping, it would appear from the comments that about half do so. Eleven people submitted forms or examples of computer printouts that they use. Those using computers



appeared to go through the same data collection and recording process as those who did not.

Only one person did not keep cumulative lists. Types of lists kept by this group, in order of frequency, were: North America (80%), state (74%), county (74%), yard (54%), Iowa year (52%), other yearly (33%), and world (17%). Other types of lists included specific locations, lower 48 states, other continents, monthly for Iowa, and birds in dreams. Most people update their lists promptly: in the field (13%), after each trip (54%), weekly or monthly (20%), and yearly (7%).

All respondents indicated that they know how to document rare sightings, while 52% know which birds to document, 37% usually know, and 4% usually do not know. The group indicated considerable experience with documentation: 14 have submitted more than 25 documentations, 19 from 5 to 25, 10 from 1 to 5, and 4 none. Most use the I.O.U. documentation form (67%) or a facsimile (20%); others use another state's form (9%), their own unstructured format (6%), or their own structured format (4%).

The frequency of sending in seasonal field reports was as follows: each season each year (25%), half or more of the seasons (8%), less than half (5%), on special occasions (6%), never (2%). Copies of the reports submitted are kept by 74%, sometimes kept by 15%, and not kept by 7%. Reasons for not sending in reports included not enough data (9), forgetfulness (8), not enough time (4), previous rejections (3), procrastination (1), and lost forms (1).

Respondents were asked to describe the process by which they prepared reports to submit to field reports editors. Ten people review all of their records at the end of the reporting period and select the most noteworthy. Others (25) pick out noteworthy sightings as the season progresses by marking or highlighting their daily lists (7), listing noteworthy sightings after each trip (12) or weekly (2), or on a species list by early and late date (1). Many people commented on the importance of anticipating which birds to report in order to reduce the large effort of completing the report at the end of the period. Respondents also indicated that they make individual judgments on which birds to report based on rarity, numbers, and date. Most (92%) have access to a list of early and late dates; of these, 26% use the list in the field, 67% use it at home, and 7% rarely use it.

## DISCUSSION

I was impressed by the high response rate to the questionnaire, the interest in record keeping, the number of days birders were in the field, and the variety of record keeping techniques. When I first started record keeping, Xerox machines and computers were unknown. I started by making hand written lists after birding trips. At my first I.O.U. meeting in 1949, Albert Berkowitz handed out copies of a form that allowed recording of species seen each week in the year. My father and I sat down each Sunday night and put check marks by species that we had seen that week. Later, I regretted that we did not record numbers, specific dates, and locations. This was somewhat overcome by my father's trip diary, which included locations, weather, birders, rarities, and new arrivals. He also kept a first date-of-the-year list.

When my father and I began to compile the results of my early birding years and his 25 years of active birding, I became even more impressed by the usefulness of always recording certain basic data -- species, numbers, date, location, and observers. Also, I wish I had spent time in the early years learning how to describe birds. In my second birding career, beginning in 1976, I have kept much

better records. The major improvements are based on (1) recording all of the essential data and (2) improved methods of data handling.

Record keeping is a highly individualistic process with many alternate ways to reach the same end. Let me share with you my own approach and biases. I try to record every bird that I see, although I have trouble with those seen in the yard and on the way to work. I keep all of my primary data handwritten on 8.5 by 11 inch paper so that I can file it in easy-to-access notebooks. I don't like to write, so I use facsimiles of checklists that I prepare on my computer and duplicate. I used to make them by cutting and pasting checklists onto pages. For trips outside of Iowa, my computer program allows me to prepare checklists with columns for each day and includes only species likely to be seen. My state checklist contains headings for weather conditions, time, and companions. My local list, in addition, has a checklist for places that I often bird.

It is clearly best to record data in the field, but I do not like to do this. It interferes with my birding. In my early birding years, I learned to remember all of the species seen on a trip, approximate numbers, and location. When I get home from each birding trip, I pull my yearly notebook from the shelf, make myself comfortable in my recliner, and enjoy recollecting all the birds I have seen as I record them on a blank checklist in my notebook. At the same time, I up-date my year and month lists, check for any early or late dates, and record on a reporting form those birds that I will likely include in my quarterly report to send to the field reports editor.

I do sometimes record species data in the field, especially for big days, Christmas Bird Counts, and breeding bird surveys. I would like to say that I always write descriptions of rarities in the field, but sometimes for birds that I am quite familiar with I wait until I get home. My best field descriptions are made with a tape recorder while looking at the bird. I like this method, but it takes time to transcribe and I do not always have my recorder handy. Otherwise, I scribble in a small field notebook, hoping I can decipher it when I get home. As time has gone on, I have become more attached to using a word processor to prepare documentations; my handwritten ones have been difficult to read and do not copy as well as clean computer printouts.

I have thought about using a computer to record my field trip data, but have avoided this for two reasons: (1) It takes too much time to turn the computer on and back up files and (2) If my primary data are handwritten, I cannot erase them or modify them by mistake. Computers and computer files can change; my data are safe except from fire. I use my computer to manipulate and compile data. At the end of each season, I enter the significant findings that I have recorded after each trip and let the computer sort them by species. I can browse this list and look for holes where I might have some interesting data. I also use my computer for maintaining lists and forms that I use. It is nice to be able to get fresh printouts without much work.

Several people mentioned the use of 4-letter codes for bird names, which reduces the effort for hand-recorded or computer-entered species data. There are several variations on the system, but these variations only affect birds which might have the same code name. Lee Jones (*Birding* 24:377-380, 1992) provides a general description of the system. In Iowa, Diane Porter and I have independently developed modifications of the system which are slightly different from each other.

Deciding what to record is easy for me. I record everything I can muster myself to do. Sometimes I wish I had recorded more details. Deciding what to report is



not as easy. There is much variation in what Iowa birders report to the Field Reports editors. Most have a good feel for what is rare, numbers that are unusual, and dates that are at the extremes. As a general rule, it is better to report more than less. I have a list of record early or late dates that I failed to report. I have found that new birders tend to report more than those with lots of experience. It may be desirable to develop guidelines and forms for reporting to Field Reports editors. The advantage is that Field Reports editors would obtain more data, especially on marginally rare species that some observers report and others do not. The disadvantages include extra work for editors to sort through much more data and that the more extensive reporting forms would only apply to the more active birders. One spring I provided a form to field reporters that prompted for entry of early, peak, and late dates for common migrants and for all sightings of less common species. The form was appropriate for more active birders, but the amount of data was very time consuming to analyze. Such a system should have support and input from those who report regularly.

Respondents to the questionnaire know how to document unusual sightings; most know which species to document; and most have considerable experience writing documentations. Many states publish a list of species that need to be documented. In Iowa, the Field Checklist serves this purpose: Any species not on the list or marked on the list should be documented. It is less clear when to document unusual dates or numbers. The necessity for such documentation is judged by the Field Reports editors and the Regional Editor for *American Birds* after the fact. If the date or number is judged as unlikely as a vagrant, documentation is required. The field observer must anticipate this likelihood. It is highly desirable to document unusual sightings individually on an 8.5 x 11 inch piece of paper. Such documentations (no matter what the format) are kept by the Records Committee in a permanent file and will be available to future workers. A few notes inserted in a field report or on a page with other notes will not be filed separately by species or considered for review by the Records Committee. I try to decide whether a rare sighting needs to be described; if so, I put it on a separate page so that it will get the attention it deserves.

I discussed in detail the process of reporting and how to document a rarity in 1981 (Kent 1981). Most of the information is still current. Early and late dates for migrants can be found in Iowa Birds (Dinsmore et al. 1984) and a later update (Kent 1988). I update this list yearly for use by the Field Reports editors.

In summary, I would like to make the following recommendations based on this survey and my own experience: (1) Record the basic data (what, where, when, how many, who) for at least any birds that are uncommon; (2) Develop a pattern for record keeping that is enjoyable and fits your time schedule; (3) Make maximum use of the technology that is available to simplify the task (codes, forms, computers, etc.); and (4) Anticipate birds that will be reported to the Field Reports editor so that details can be recorded at the time of sighting and the task of compiling the report is partly done in advance of the deadline.

I thank all those who responded to my questionnaire for their enthusiasm and comments.

## LITERATURE CITED

- Dinsmore, J. J., T. H. Kent, D. Koenig, P. C. Petersen, and D. M. Roosa. 1984. Iowa Birds. Iowa State University Press, Ames.
- Kent, T. H. 1981. Reporting observations of birds seen in Iowa. *Iowa Bird Life* 51:88-98.



*\*Presented at the 1993 Spring Meeting of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union.  
211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246*

## REPORT OF THE RECORDS COMMITTEE FOR 1992

THOMAS H. KENT

The Records Committee reviewed 43 records from 1992. Of these, 32 were accepted, 9 were not, and 2 are still under consideration. One report of a bird from a prior year was not accepted. Gyr Falcon was added to the state list. The two records under review would also be new to the state (Glossy Ibis, "Western" Flycatcher). The status of American Swallow-tailed Kite changed from extirpated to accidental.

Committee members for 1992 with years in which their terms expire were: Mark Proescholdt (1993), Eugene Armstrong (1994), Robert I. Cecil (1995), Tanya E. Bray (1996), Raymond L. Cummins (1997), Francis L. Moore (1998), and Thomas H. Kent (secretary, appointed by the committee).

At its meeting of 7 December 1991, the Board of Directors made "the Records Committee officially responsible for archiving photographs submitted to the I.O.U. as well as records for all birds, whether officially reviewed or not." (*IBL* 62:62).

Photographs (and other bits of tangible evidence such as movies, video tapes, and audio tapes) are entered into the I.O.U. Photo File and numbered sequentially (for example, see references under species accounts below). Acid-free archival materials are being used to store the photographs, which are currently being housed by the Secretary of the Records Committee. The file contains both slides and prints. The committee prefers to receive slides, especially of rarities, because it is less expensive to make prints for review by the committee and they are of better quality than copies made from prints. If requested, original slides will be duplicated and returned. The committee would prefer not to receive prints that need to be returned. It is assumed that photographs submitted to the I.O.U. can be used for evaluation of records and publication in *Iowa Bird Life* (Field Reports or Notes) or *American Birds* (The Changing Seasons). A photographer retains the copyright on any photo that he/she takes unless it is explicitly given away. This means that any photo submitted to the I.O.U. still belongs to the photographer. Anyone who wishes to use photos from the I.O.U. Photo File for purposes other than those mentioned above would have to obtain permission from the photographer. We ask that contributors not put copyright notices on photos submitted unless they include a letter granting the I.O.U. permission to duplicate, publish, and submit to *American Birds* for publication. For rarities reviewed by the Records Committee, we make six prints (three for circulation and filing with the record, one for the I.O.U. Photo File, one for possible publication in *Iowa Bird Life*, and one to submit to the Regional Editor of *American Birds*).

Documentations of birds not reviewed by the Records Committee have been collected from past and present Field Reports editors and have been filed by species. These go back to the early 1970s when the process of documentation came into vogue. We also have almost all of the field reports submitted since the early 1970s filed by year and season.

Beginning with this report, the four-digit number (year and sequence number) assigned to each record reviewed by the Records Committee is included for future

reference. Records from prior years are given the year in which first reviewed and a letter for a sequence number. Records are classified as follows: A = accepted (-S = specimen, -P = photograph, -D = documentation, -E = possible escaped or introduced bird) and NA = not accepted. References to *IBL* are the page of the Field Reports in *Iowa Bird Life* where the record is cited. References to *American Birds* are to the page for photographs. P- numbers refer to the IOU Photo File entry number. The dates given are for documentations and do not necessarily mean that the bird was not seen before or after these dates. Published notes and previous citations may contain more details. An \* indicates a previously uncited documentation.

## OLD RECORDS

**Wood Stork:** 92-A: A record from Oct 1985 was considered inconclusive.

## 1992 RECORDS ACCEPTED

**Red-throated Loon:** 92-41: One in basic plumage was at Red Rock Res. from 7 to 9 Nov (*IBL* 63:16).

**Pacific Loon:** 92-42: One in basic plumage was at Red Rock Res. from 8 to 9 Nov (*IBL* 63:16).

**Brown Pelican:** 92-09: On 21 Mar, 4 were seen at Rathbun Res. (*IBL* 62:74). 92-10: One was at De Soto N.W.R. from 6 to 11 May (*IBL* 62:74, *American Birds* 46:444, P-0327, P-0328, P-0329).

**Eurasian Wigeon:** 92-01: A male was s of Clear L. on 18 Mar (*IBL* 62:75, Pinkston 1993). 92-11: A male was nw of Palo from 25 to 28 Apr. (*IBL* 62:75, P-0330).

**American Swallow-tailed Kite:** 92-12: One was seen in Cedar Falls on 14-15 May (*IBL* 62:75).

**Mississippi Kite:** 92-13: A migrant was seen over Cedar Falls on 16 May (*IBL* 62:75). 92-14: A pair returned to Clive and were photographed on 14 May and documented on 23 May (*IBL* 62:75, P-0342).

**Gyrfalcon:** 92-33: Excellent photographs of one in NW Kossuth Co. on 27 Mar were taken by Brad Bolduan (P-0351).

**Greater Prairie-Chicken:** 92-34: One was caught by Marty Eby's dog 4 miles w of Larchwood in Lyon Co. on 11 Dec. The partially chewed specimen (Iowa State University #2578) was identified by \*Jim Dinsmore by comparing the feathers with all other possible species. The location and date are consistent with a winter resident from the populations to the north (Eby 1993).

**Black Rail:** 92-16: Two were seen n of Des Moines on 26 Apr (*IBL* 62:77).

**Snowy Plover:** 92-18: A male was seen at Riverton A. from 10 to 12 May and photographed (*IBL* 62:76, P-0331, P-0332). 92-19: A female was at the same location on 13 May (*IBL* 62:76).

**Black-necked Stilt:** 92-20: One stopped at Riverton on the afternoon of 12 May (*IBL* 62:77, P-0333).

**Red Knot:** 92-21: Two were at Riverton A. on 13 May (*IBL* 62:77). 92-35: 4 were at Rathbun Res. on 8 Oct (*IBL* 63:18).

**Red Phalarope:** 92-36: One in basic plumage was at Rathbun Res. on 8-9 Nov (*IBL* 63:18, P-0344).

**Laughing Gull:** 92-30: A juvenile at Red Rock Res. from 21 to 26 Jul (*IBL* 62:108, P-0341).

**Little Gull:** 92-22: An adult was s of Council Bluffs on 23 Apr (*IBL* 62:77, *American Birds* 46:430, P-0334).

**Iceland Gull:** 91-47: A first-winter bird seen on 31 Dec 1991 at Lock and Dam 14 was also seen on 1-2 Jan 1992. 92-03: A different first-winter bird was seen at the same location on 4 Jan (*IBL* 62:55, P-0324). First-winter birds were seen at various locations between Lock and Dams 14 and 15 through 9 Feb (P-0326). 92-04: A second-winter bird was also at Lock and Dam 14 on 4 Jan (*IBL* 62:55, P-0325). Another first-winter bird was seen at Saylorville Res. on 29 Feb (*IBL* 62:55, P-0336). See Kent (1992) for further details on these records.

**Great Black-backed Gull:** 92-23: A first-year bird was at Saylorville Res. on 7 Mar (*IBL* 62:78).



- Lewis's Woodpecker:** 92-37: A bird found by Marion Brewer on 14 Oct was documented through 18 Oct (*IBL* 63:19, P-0345).
- Western Flycatcher:** 92-38: A record is still under review (*American Birds* 47:102).
- Vermilion Flycatcher:** 92-39: A female was at Rathbun Res. on 25 Oct (*IBL* 63:20, *American Birds* 47:101, P-0349, P-0350).
- Mountain Bluebird:** 92-07: One was s of Ames on 17 Mar (\*Matthew Patterson).
- Townsend's Solitaire:** 92-26: One at Polk City was rather late on 17 May (*IBL* 62:79).
- Pine Warbler:** 92-08: One at Gladys Black's feeder in Pleasantville was documented from 10 Jan to 3 Feb (*IBL* 62:57, P-0317). 92-43: Another winter bird that was found in Iowa City on 20 Dec remained into 1993 (*IBL* 63:51, P-0354, P-0355).
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** 92-40: An immature male was found by Donna Rourick at her feeder in Atlantic on 28 Nov (*IBL* 63:22, P-0352, P-0353).
- Chestnut-collared Longspur:** 92-28: Flocks of 25 and 5 were seen in SW Fremont Co. on 23 Apr, and a male and female were photographed (*IBL* 62:81, *American Birds* 46:432, P-0335), and a road-killed specimen was preserved at Iowa State University (#2568).

## 1992 RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED

- Mississippi Kite:** 92-31: A report of a circling bird was quite suggestive of this species but not judged to be conclusive (*IBL* 62:106).
- Ferruginous Hawk:** 92-15: Krider's Red-tailed Hawk was a likely possibility based on the description (*IBL* 62:76).
- Gyr Falcon:** 92-02: A report was suggestive of this species but from the description committee members could not exclude Peregrine or Prairie falcon. (*IBL* 62:54).
- Prairie Falcon:** 92-32: Black axillaries were not seen on this bird, which was at a likely location at a likely time of year for Prairie Falcon. As has been the case in the past with similar records, this sighting was not accepted on a split vote.
- Caribbean Coot:** 92-17: A report of this species (*IBL* 62:76) was long overdue for Iowa, and the description fit; however, most authorities no longer consider this an acceptable species in the United States. The differences in the frontal shield are considered to be genetic variations that are influenced by male hormones.
- Slaty-backed Gull:** 92-06: A relatively brief sighting by a single observer of a species that is very difficult to identify was unlike the previous two records of this species on the Mississippi River that were seen by hundreds of people over several weeks and photographed (*IBL* 62:55).
- Black-legged Kittiwake:** 92-24: Apparently diagnostic head markings on a bird whose other markings were incompletely observed raised doubts in the minds of some committee members. Adult kittiwakes are extremely rare in the Midwest, and all kittiwakes are rare in spring.
- Say's Phoebe:** 92-25: Committee members could not identify the bird from the description (*IBL* 62:78).
- Baird's Sparrow:** 92-27: A second observers photographs were of a Savannah Sparrow (P-0337). The first observer's description of the crown stripe did convince the committee that the bird seen was not a Savannah Sparrow, a species with considerable individual variation (*IBL* 62:81).

## LITERATURE CITED

- Eby, M. 1993. Greater Prairie-Chicken in Lyon County. *Iowa Bird Life* 63:55.
- Kent, T. H. 1992. Iceland Gulls in Iowa. *Iowa Bird Life* 62:95-98.
- Pinkston, R. 1993. Eurasian Wigeon in Cerro Gordo County. *Iowa Bird Life* 63:23-24.

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# FIELD REPORTS--SPRING 1993

THOMAS H. KENT

## WEATHER

March was wetter and cooler than normal. The only major snowfall was on the 21st-22nd when up to nine inches fell on the northern third of the state. The winter snow lingered late in many areas resulting in rapid melting and flooding over much of the state in the last week of the month. Unseasonably heavy rains fell statewide on the 30th and 31st adding to the floods.

April was the sixth consecutive month to be wetter and cloudier than normal. The state's high temperature of only 76 degrees was the lowest for April since 1874. Heavy snow fell over eastern Iowa on the 15th-16th and the last snowfall covered the northern half of the state on the 20th. Much of the state suffered continuing flood conditions.

May continued the wet and cool pattern although the eastern third of the state was above normal temperature. The first 80 degree day in 1993 did not occur until May 5th, the latest date since at least 1868. Flooding continued statewide. For example, the monthly average flow was the highest ever at both the Cedar River at Cedar Rapids and the Des Moines River at Fort Dodge.



Table 1. Temperature and Precipitation with Deviation from Normal.

	Temperature, F Mean (Deviation)	Precipitation inches Mean (Deviation)
March	31.7 (-4.0)	2.75 (+0.56)
April	46.1 (-3.4)	3.64 (+0.48)
May	60.2 (-0.7)	5.58 (+1.60)

## GENERAL TRENDS

There were some significant trends this spring that appear to relate to the weather. Waterfowl were delayed, especially in northern Iowa where the ice was still present on lakes in early April. Snow Geese and associated Ross's and Greater White-fronted geese were present in very small numbers. The abundant water to the west of Iowa apparently caused them to miss Iowa. Even more noticeable was the lack of early shorebirds -- pectorals, leasts, yellowlegs, and dowitchers were hard to find. High water at reservoirs obscured some of the usual mud flats; however, there was abundant habitat in flooded fields that was well checked by birders looking for the missing shorebirds. Perhaps they went to the west with the geese. The later shorebirds (Black-bellied Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Semipalmated Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper) appeared in normal numbers, as did Lesser Golden-Plover throughout the period.

Warblers, by contrast, made a good showing, with many observers reporting good waves. Yellow-rumped Warblers may have been held up a bit by the cool weather, as they appeared in large numbers into mid-May.

Several species were more widely reported than usual. Eared Grebes and, especially, American White Pelicans were more common in eastern Iowa. Cattle Egrets were everywhere. Sandhill Cranes sightings were up, and most were from eastern Iowa. In late May, Black Terns occurred in spectacular numbers and migrating flocks of Common Nighthawks were evident. Many more than usual Yellow-bellied Flycatchers and Winter Wrens were reported, perhaps due to more intensive observation. Swainson's Thrushes were seen in large numbers and remained into late May. Cape May Warblers were more widely reported than normal, and Hooded Warblers appeared in the northwest part of the state.

Bald Eagle nesting continues to increase, and several Broad-winged Hawk nests were found. Sandhill Cranes appear to be nesting again.

## UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

The most outstanding bird was the state's first recorded Black-throated Sparrow that was seen by many. This species appeared in most Midwestern states during fall and winter of 1992-93. Perhaps more unusual was a male Rufous Hummingbird that appears to be the first spring record for the Midwest. Other accidental species that were documented include Brown Pelican, Black-necked Stilt, Laughing Gull, Iceland Gull, Rock Wren, and Western Tanager.

Casual species found this spring were Lesser Black-backed Gull, Burrowing Owl, Bewick's Wren, and Townsend's Solitaire. Some of the rarer regular species encountered were Red-necked Grebe, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, and Varied Thrush.

## SPECIES DATA

\* = documented, [ ] = record dates

**Common Loon:** The first was at Red Rock Res. on 28 Mar (JSi). The peak was 22 at Clear L. on 11 Apr (JLW). May sightings were from L. Manawa on the 9th (BKP/LJP), from Silver L. in Worth Co. on the 11th (THK), and from Pleasant Creek L. on the 27th (JaD/JoD).

**Pied-billed Grebe:** The high counts were 30 at L. Manawa on 30 Mar (BKP/LJP), 32 at Gray's L. in Polk Co. on 3 Apr (JSi), and 34 at Cardinal M. on 21 Apr (DeC).

**Horned Grebe:** 7 at Credit L. on 30 Mar (PCP) were the first, and 12 at Little Wall L. on 24 Apr (MPR) were the last. From 1 to 6 were reported from 14 other locations.

**Red-necked Grebe:** At Cardinal M., 2 were seen on 19 Apr and 1 on 21 Apr (Tex Sordahl, Mary Jo Hartogh fide DeC). At Spirit L. 1 was seen on 21 Apr (\*LAS).

**Eared Grebe:** The first were on 30 Mar at Johnston (BEn) and L. Manawa (BKP/LJP). The last were 4 near Ackley on 23 May (MPR). High counts were on 11 May with 14 near Cherokee (MMB) and 12 at Silver L. in Worth Co. (THK). From 1 to 6 were at 14 other locations across the state. On 21 May, 4 pair were at Grover L. in Dickinson Co. and could be nesting (JJD).

**Western Grebe:** 3 were at L. Manawa on 30 Apr and 2 remained on 9 May (BKP/LJP); 1 was at Moorehead P. in Ida Co. on 12 May (PE).

**American White Pelican:** The first were 125 at Montrose on 29 Mar (RIC), and the peak was 2,742 on 17 Apr at Big Creek L. (BEn). More than usual were present in eastern Iowa including 114 at Cardinal M. on 24 Apr (DeC) and 91 lingering at Amana L. through 31 May (DRP). Others were present in all areas of the state.

**Brown Pelican:** 1 was Rathbun Res. on 30 May (\*RLC) and photographed on the 31st (RIA, TSc).

**Double-crested Cormorant:** The first 2 were at Hawarden on 2 Apr (JV). High counts were 1,200 at Gray's L. in Polk Co. on 17 Apr (JSi), 514 at Saylorville Res. on 27 Apr (BEn), and 290 at L. Manawa on 30 Apr (BKP/LJP). There were 5 active nests at Union Slough N.W.R. on 22 May (MCK).

**American Bittern:** The first was at Otter Creek M. on 22 Apr (DRP), and the last 2 were at Dewey's Pasture on 22 May (JJD). From 1 to 4 were reported from 6 other locations.



**Least Bittern:** The first was at Snake Creek M. on 11 May (DTh). Others were Dewey's Pasture (JJD), Trumbull L. (LAS), and Sweet M. (DSi).

**Great Egret:** The first was at Carlisle on 28 Mar (JSi). The highest count was 16 on 20 Apr at Storm L. (MMB). On 31 May, 3 were at a heronry at Saylorville Res. (DTh).

**Snowy Egret:** Singles were at Green I. on 11 May (PCP) and SW Fremont Co. on 30 May (PHA/RIA).

**Little Blue Heron:** An adult was at Cone M. on 27 Apr (THK, DRP); 1 was at Silver L. in Palo Alto Co. on 7 May (MMB); and an imm. was in Clinton Co. on 11 May (PCP).

**Cattle Egret:** 1 at Cardinal M. on 24 Apr (DeC) heralded a massive invasion of this species across the state through the end of the period. High counts for the 27 locations where this species was found were 56 at Ames on 7 May (JJD, HZ), 79 at Moeckley Prairie on 10 May (DTh), and 78 n of Des Moines on 26 May (AMJ).

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** The first 2 were at Brenton Sl. in Dallas Co. on 9 Apr (JSi). The high count was 10 at Rush L. in Osceola Co. on 20 May (MMB). From 1 to 6 were reported from nine other locations.

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** An adult was s of Clear L. on 2-3 May (JLW, RAG).

**Tundra Swan:** Reports were of 20 on 2 Apr at Spring Run W.A. (JJD), 8 on 2 Apr at Clear L. (THK), 13 on 4 Apr at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK), and 62 on 8 Apr at Aldo Leopold Wetlands in Bremer Co. (DSi).

**Trumpeter Swan:** 2 with yellow neck collars were s of Albion in Marshall Co. on 28 Mar (MPR), and 1 imm., said to have been raised in Wisconsin, was at Davenport from 2 Apr to 10 May (PCP).

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** 50 were at Cone M. on 13 Mar (JaD/JoD), and a 100 were at Snyder's Bend in Woodbury Co. on 26 Mar (BFH). Few others were reported.

**Snow Goose:** Very few were reported. John Van Dyk indicated that they were essentially absent from usual northwest Iowa locations, and the large numbers usually seen in southwest Iowa apparently migrated through Kansas and Nebraska this year (Ross Silcock fide THK).

**Ross's Goose:** The only report was of 1 at Spring Lake in Cherokee Co. on 24 Apr (DBi).

**American Black Duck:** 4 were in Cerro Gordo Co. on 17 Apr (JLW).

**Cinnamon Teal:** Single males were at Cone M. on 18-20 Mar (JLF, et al.), se of Arnold's Park on 7 May (Steve Gastfield fide JJD), and w of Estherville on 19 May (Guy Zenner fide JJD).

**Northern Shoveler:** High counts were 350 at Runnell's A. on 1 Apr (JSi) and 255 at Saylorville Res. on 16 Apr (BEn).

**Canvasback:** The highest number reported was 80 at Snyder's Bend on 26 Mar (BFH).

**Redhead:** The peak was 70 at Rathbun Res. on 14 Mar (RLC).

**Ring-necked Duck:** 300 were at Red Rock Res. on 28 Apr (DRP).

**Greater Scaup:** Reports included 2 in Mason City on 1 Apr (JLW), 3 at Nashua on 2 Apr (THK), 2 at Algona on 14 Apr (MCK), and 1 at Elk Creek M. on 18 Apr (CRN).

**Lesser Scaup:** 1,000 were in Sioux Co. on 2 Apr (JV).

**Oldsquaw:** 1 was at Red Rock Res. on 28 Apr (DRP).

**Surf Scoter:** A female was at Silver L. in Worth Co. on 11 May (THK).

**Common Goldeneye:** Males lingered in Polk Co. on 6 May (RIC) and at Cardinal M. on 9 May (DeC).

**Bufflehead:** 61 were at Saylorville Res. on 1 Apr (BEn).

**Hooded Merganser:** 32 were at Cedar L. on 13 Mar (JaD/JoD). Large numbers were also reported from other areas such as 50 in Appanoose Co. on 14 Mar (RLC) and 26 in Cherokee Co. on 29 Mar (MMB).

**Red-breasted Merganser:** High count was 600 at Gray's L. in Polk Co. on 17 Apr (JSi). Females lingered s of Clear L. on 26 May (JLW) and at Johnston on 29 May (DTh).

**Ruddy Duck:** High counts were 149 at Pleasant Creek L. on 9 Apr (PHA/RIA) and 140 at Montrose on 24 Apr (RIC).

**Turkey Vulture:** The first were 2 at L. Macbride on 20 Mar (THK). The high count was 42 at Pleasant Creek L. on 2 Apr (JaD/JoD). Several northwest Iowa birders noted increased numbers in that area.

**Osprey:** The first was on 20 Mar at Saylorville Res. (BEn). The last was at Mark Twain N.W.R. in Louisa Co. on 27 May (PCP). From 1 to 3 were noted at 11 other locations.

**Bald Eagle:** The high count was 53 at L. Manawa on 25 Mar (BKP/LJP); 14 or more were noted at five other locations across the state in March and early April. Bruce Ehresman reported the following active nests by county: Allamakee (8), Clayton (3), Jackson (2), Winneshiek (1), Howard (1), Black Hawk (1), Benton (1), Iowa (1), Jefferson (1), Mahaska



- (1), and Marion (1). Several of these are new sites as this species continues to expand its nesting range in Iowa.
- Northern Harrier:** A pair was seen in Van Buren Co. on 15-16 May (RLC, JSi).
- Cooper's Hawk:** Nesting activity was noted at Brown's Woods in Polk Co. and Woodland Mounds in Warren Co. on 27 and 29 Apr (JSi), and a nest was found at Coralville Res. on 11 May (Dave Conrads fide THK).
- Northern Goshawk:** The only report with details was an imm. in Cerro Gordo Co. on 20 Mar (CRN).
- Red-shouldered Hawk:** Singles were found in the following counties between 17 Mar and 21 Apr: Wright (DBi), Tama (MPR), Linn (THK), Cerro Gordo (RAG, JLW), Marion (JSi), and Clay (THK, LAS). One at Storm L. on 4 Apr was on the ground with robins eating earthworms (THK).
- Broad-winged Hawk:** The first were 25 in Iowa City on 18 Apr (DRP). The high count was 100 in Linn Co. on 24 Apr (JaD/JoD). A pair and nest were found at Croton Unit in Lee Co. on 1 May (RIC) and at Coralville Res. on 11 May (Dave Conrads fide THK). One at Ledges S.P. on 26 May (MPR) could also have been nesting.
- Swainson's Hawk:** The first were 2 at Algona on 6 Apr (MCK). Birds were nesting at the usual locations at Mason City (JLW) and in Osceola Co. (DBi). Singles were seen in Sioux (JV), Dallas (AMJ), Cherokee (MMB), Polk (BEn), Clay (LAS), and Marshall (MPR) counties from 23 Apr to 9 May.
- Rough-legged Hawk:** The last was in Winneshiek Co. on 26 Apr (DeC).
- Golden Eagle:** 3 were at the usual New Albin wintering location on 6 Mar (JaD/JoD).
- American Kestrel:** 46 were seen in 120 miles in C Iowa on 4 Apr (MPR).
- Merlin:** A previous report (IBL 63:18) from 20 Aug 1992 should have been 20 Sep (MCK). The first was at Saylorville Res. on 13 Mar (BEn) and the last at Grammer Grove on 14 May (BPR)[2nd latest]. Other singles were from Story (MCK, BPR), Sioux (JV), Clay (LAS), Cerro Gordo (JLW), and Jackson (PCP) counties from 14 Mar to 11 May.
- Peregrine Falcon:** Sightings include 1 at Saylorville Res. on 7 Mar (PHA/RIA), a pair at Davenport on 30 Mar and 11 May (PCP), 1 at Brenton Sl. in Dallas Co. on 21 Apr (MPR), and 1 in SC Cerro Gordo Co. on 8 May (JLW). Three eggs hatched at a nest in downtown Des Moines, the first successful Iowa nest reported in about 25 years (Laura Jackson fide JJD).
- Prairie Falcon:** 1 was seen w of Lost Island L. in Clay Co. on 2-3 Apr (LAS, \*RIC, \*THK).
- Yellow Rail:** 1 was reported from Snake Creek M. on 10 May (AMJ), and another was heard in a delayed response to a tape at Cone M. on 11 May (PCP). I know of no previous records of singing Yellow Rails in Iowa. Ken Brock informed me that he had heard them twice in Indiana, and he talked to Paul McKenzie who had heard them twice in Missouri (letter from Brock to THK).
- King Rail:** There were 3 heard-only reports. There was just about a fourth, but when a bird that responded to a King Rail tape and sounded like the tape came in to view and was seen calling, it was a Virginia (THK).
- Virginia Rail:** The first was at Otter Creek M. on 12 Apr (MPR)[2nd earliest]. On 16 May in Ida Co., 1 was found dead on a fence line in a hayfield; another was in Sac Co. on 18 May (PE). Several were near Spirit L. on 21 May (JJD).
- Sora:** The first were 6 at Otter Creek M. on 22 Apr (DRP). The high count was 38 at Patterson W.A. in Kossuth Co. on 4 May (MCK).
- Common Moorhen:** The only reports were 1 at Cone M. and 12 at Green I. on 11 May (PCP).
- American Coot:** 1,000 were at L. Manawa on 30 Mar (BKP/LJP), and 2,000 were at Lakin Sl. on 9 Apr (JSi).
- Sandhill Crane:** 6 returned to Otter Creek M. on 9 Apr (PHA/RIA) and presumably will nest again. In Allamakee Co., 2 were seen at New Albin on 27 Mar (FL), at Pool Sl. on 27 Apr (Jeffrey B. Dankert fide DLD), and at Effigy Mounds on 22 May (DeC). Other sightings were 2 in Fayette Co. on 26 Apr (JaD/JoD), 1-3 at Cardinal M. from 28 Apr to 9 May (DeC), 3 at Goose L. in Clinton Co. on 11 May (PCP), and 1 at Big Wall L. on 19 May (BEH).
- Black-bellied Plover:** The first was at Ankeny Ponds on 16 May (DTh), and the last 28 were w of Ames on 25 May (JJD). Flocks of 12 to 28 were noted at four other locations during this classic migration interval.
- Lesser Golden-Plover:** The first were 129 on 21 Apr at Ankeny Ponds (PHA/RIA), and the last were 600 at Terril in Dickinson Co. on 21 May (JJD). The high count was 786 at Colo Ponds on 14 May (HZ). Large flocks were seen at 10 other locations.
- Semipalmated Plover:** Few were reported. The first and peak 10 were at Long Pond in Guthrie Co. on 8 May (MPR). The last 3 were at Cardinal M. on 29 May (DeC).

**Piping Plover:** A pair was at the IPS power plant in Woodbury Co. on 13 May (BFH), and 3 returned to IPL Ponds on 9 May (BKP/LJP).

**Black-necked Stilt:** 2 at Amana L. on 20 May (\*TJS, \*THK, \*DRP) left early the next morning (TSc-photo).

**American Avocet:** The first was at Wapello on 13 Apr (PCP)[3rd earliest]. Others were 15 at Big Creek L. on 17 Apr (JSi, BEn, Richard Stillwell-photo), 12 at Bays Branch on 21 Apr (MPr), and 1 in SW Fremont Co. on 25 Apr (TEB).

**Greater Yellowlegs:** The high count was 13 at Colo Ponds on 21 Apr (HZ).

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** The first was at Pleasant Creek L. on 2 Apr (JaD/JoD). The high count at Colo Ponds was 140 on 28 Apr (HZ).

**Solitary Sandpiper:** The only reports were from 1 May at Coralville Res. (DRP, JaD/JoD) and Colo Ponds (MPr).

**Willet:** The first 2 were at Silver L. in Palo Alto Co. on 22 Apr (MMB), and the last was in Story Co. on 16 May (HZ). From 1 to 4 were at three other sites.

**Spotted Sandpiper:** The first was at Cedar L. on 24 Apr (JaD/JoD).

**Upland Sandpiper:** 1-3 were reported from eight counties.

**Hudsonian Godwit:** The first 20 were in Franklin Co. on 10 Apr (MPr). The last 2 were at Colo Ponds on 23 May (MPr). The high count was 89 at Colo Ponds on 16 May (HZ).

**Marbled Godwit:** Singles were at Lakin Sl. on 21 Apr (MPr), at Colo Ponds on 27 Apr (HZ), at Coralville Res. on 28 Apr (THK), and at Amana L. on 20 May (\*DRP).

**Ruddy Turnstone:** The first 4 were at Badger Creek R.A. on 19 May (PHA/RIA), and the last were 5 at Pleasant Creek L. on 27 May (JaD/JoD). From 1 to 14 were at seven other locations.

**Sanderling:** The first 5 were at Amana L. on 20 May (DRP), and the last 3 were there on 26 May (THK). From 1 to 8 were seen at three other sites.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** The first was in Marshall Co. on 1 May (MPr). The high count was 150 at Cardinal M. on 26 May (Dec).

**Least Sandpiper:** 56 Colo Ponds on 19 May (HZ) were the only ones reported.

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** 1 was at Ankeny Ponds on 16 May (DTh), and 30 were at Colo Ponds on 22 May (MPr).

**Baird's Sandpiper:** The first was in SW Plymouth Co. on 17 Apr (BFH), and the last was at Pleasant Creek L. on 27 May (JaD/JoD). The only count larger than 1 was 90 at Taylor L. in Fremont Co. on 25 Apr (TEB).

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** The only concentration reported was 439 at Colo Ponds on 12 May (HZ). One active observer (THK) saw none.

**Dunlin:** The first was at Ankeny Ponds on 16 May (DTh), and the last at Amana L. on 26 May (THK). The high count was 64 at Colo Ponds on 23 May (MPr).

**Stilt Sandpiper:** 1 from Colo Ponds on 20-21 May (HZ) was the only report.

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** The first were 2 at Coralville Res. on 28 Apr (THK, details), and the last 2 were at Moockley Prairie in Polk Co. on 22 May (DTh). The high count was 5 at Lakin Sl. on 8 May (MPr).

**Long-billed Dowitcher:** The first was at Colo Ponds on 21 Apr with a peak of 4 there on 28 Apr (MPr). The last 2 were at Coralville Res. on 30 Apr (JaD/JoD).

**Common Snipe:** The high count was 46 in Warren Co. on 4 Apr (JSi).

**American Woodcock:** The first was on 13 Mar at Cone M. (JaD/JoD). A nest was found at L. Manawa on 25 Apr (B. J. Rose fide TEB).

**Wilson's Phalarope:** The first was at Colo Ponds on 24 Apr (MPr) with a peak of 5 there on 28 Apr (HZ). The last was at Pleasant Creek L. on 27 May (JaD/JoD).

**Red-necked Phalarope:** 1 was w of Ames on 25 May (JJD), and a pair was at Cardinal M. on 26 May (DeC).

**Laughing Gull:** A report is referred to the Records Committee.

**Franklin's Gull:** The first was at Hawarden on 2 Apr (JV). The high count was 50 at L. Manawa on 11 Apr (BKP/LJP). In late May, 18 were still at Rathbun Res. on the 30th (RLC), 1 was at Cardinal M. on the 25th (DeC), 1 was at Marshalltown on the 25th (MPr), 2 were at Amana L. on the 26th (THK), and 1 was at L. Manawa on the 28th (BKP/LJP).

**Bonaparte's Gull:** The first was at L. Manawa on 30 Mar (BKP/LJP), and the last 12 were at Coralville Res. on 1 May (DRP). The high count was 75 w of Boone on 28 Apr (MPr).

**Ring-billed Gull:** 3,500 were at L. Manawa on 7 Apr (BKP/LJP).

**Iceland Gull:** 2 reports are referred to the Records Committee.

**Glaucous Gull:** 1 was at Sabula on 27 Mar (PCP).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** An adult was at L. Macbride on 16 Apr (\*JLF).



- Caspian Tern:** The first 3 were at Red Rock Res. on 28 Apr (DRP). The high count of 28 was at Rathbun Res. on 28 May (RLC). From 1 to 15 were at eight other locations.
- Forster's Tern:** The first was at L. Macbride on 17 Apr (JaD/JoD). The high count was 15 at Amana L. on 26 May (THK).
- Black Tern:** The first was at Coralville Res. on 30 Apr (JaD/JoD). In late May very large concentrations were encountered with 77 in Dickinson and Emmet counties on the 21st and 22nd (JJD), 150 n of Churdan in Greene Co. on the 22nd (JJD), 250 on Swan L. in Johnson Co. on the 25th and 26th (THK), 40 at Cardinal M. on the 26th, and an amazing 1,100 (800 on a mud flat and 300 in the air) on Amana L. on the 26th (THK).
- Black-billed Cuckoo:** The first was on 8 May at Moorehead P. (PE).
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** The first was at Effigy Mounds on 8 May (DeC).
- Barn Owl:** Secondhand reports were received from Shelby and Guthrie counties in April and May (BEh). Owls have apparently not returned to the Taylor Co. location (BEh).
- Snowy Owl:** 1 was at LuVerne in Kossuth Co. on 23 Mar (Mark Lenz fide MCK).
- Burrowing Owl:** Reports were from Franklin Co. from 7 to 30 Apr (Ron Andrews fide BEh) and from Boone Co. from 2 to 23 Apr (Chad Eells, BEh).
- Long-eared Owl:** The last was at Saylorville Res. on 3 Apr (BEn).
- Northern Saw-whet Owl:** Singles were at Grammer Grove on 7 Mar (MPr) and near Homestead on 5 and 19 Mar (JES).
- Common Nighthawk:** 1 at Fairfield on 2 May was Diane Porter's earliest date by 2 days. A migration was evident in late May with 15 at Fairfield on the 19th (CAA), 20 at Amana L. and 10 at Coralville on the 21st (THK), and 28 at Johnston (DTh) and 36 at Big Creek L. (RIC) on the 26th.
- Chuck-will's-widow:** Singles were in Muscatine Co. at Big Sand Mound Preserve and w of Montpelier on 9 and 11 May, respectively (PCP). More unusual was 1 heard in Ida Co. on 17 May (\*PE).
- Whip-poor-will:** The first was at Stone P. in Plymouth Co. on 27 Apr (BFH).
- Chimney Swift:** The first was at Ledges S.P. on 16 Apr (BEh).
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** The first was n of Iowa City on 27 Apr (JES)[ties 3rd earliest]. Nest building was noted at Croton Unit in Lee Co. on 15 May (RIC), and a bird was on a nest at Decorah on 26 May (DeC).
- Rufous Hummingbird:** A male appeared at Sharon Laub's feeder in rural Boone Co. on the afternoon of 8 May and stayed until the next morning (\*SRL, \*JLF, \*JES). This appears to be the first spring record in the Midwest.
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** The high count was 10 at Iowa City on 18 Apr (DRP). Late birds that could be nesting were 4 at Effigy Mounds on 22 May (DeC) and 2 at Call S.P. in Kossuth Co. on 30 May (MCK).
- Hairy Woodpecker:** 1 was at a nest at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 15 May (DRP).
- Northern Flicker:** 150 were migrating in Sioux Co. on 2 Apr (JV). Many individuals and small groups were widespread in the country side of NW Iowa on 4 Apr (THK).
- Pileated Woodpecker:** Singles were at Otter Creek M. on 12 Apr (MPr) and at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. and Croton Unit on 15 and 16 May (DRP).
- Olive-sided Flycatcher:** The first was at Union Grove P. on 3 May (MPr)[ties 3rd earliest]. Others were reported from many locations from 7 to 31 May.
- Eastern Wood-Pewee:** Singles were at Red Rock Res. on 30 Apr (AMJ)[2nd earliest] and at Walnut Woods on 1 May (AMJ)[3rd earliest].
- Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** Many more than usual were reported with 1-3 at 16 locations including three in NW Iowa from 16 to 31 May.
- Acadian Flycatcher:** A migrant was at Hickory Hill P. in Iowa City on 19 May (DRP). Other reports were from usual resident locations at Croton Unit, Lacey-Keosauqua S.P., and Wildcat Den S.P.
- Alder Flycatcher:** 1 or 2 were found at six locations from 18 to 31 May.
- Least Flycatcher:** The first was heard and seen at Croton Unit on 25 Apr (RIC, THK)[ties record earliest]. The last was on 28 May in Ames (PM).
- Eastern Phoebe:** The first was s of Cherokee on 26 Mar (MMB).
- Western Kingbird:** The first was at Kindlespire P. in Clay Co. on 2 May (LAS). On 23 May, a pair were building a nest near the State Capitol Building in Des Moines. Other sightings were from Hawarden on 5 May (JV), Long Pond on 8 May (MPr), New L. in Woodbury Co. on 13 May (BFH), and s of Larrabee on 24 May (MMB). Many were in W Sioux Co. (DCH).
- Eastern Kingbird:** The first was on 25 Apr in Lee Co. (RIC), and 2 were as far north as Lakin Sl. by 28 Apr (MPr).
- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher:** No date was given for 1 in Kossuth Co. (Barb Meyer fide MCK).



**Purple Martin:** The first was at Lakin Sl. on 9 Apr (JSi).

**Tree Swallow:** The first was at Cedar L. on 28 Mar (DLD).

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow:** The first was at L. Macbride on 17 Apr (JaD/JoD). Two nests were found at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 15 May (DRP).

**Cliff Swallow:** 161 nests were found at Big M. on 21 May (MAP).

**Blue Jay:** Migrating groups included 108 at Algona on 30 Apr (MCK) and 85 in Cass Co. on 5 May (MAP).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** Singles were at Beed's L. on 10 Apr (MPr), Ackley on 20 Apr (MPr), Cardinal M. on 26 Apr (DeC), and Ames on 9 May (PM).

**Rock Wren:** 1 visited the yard of David Youngblut in Indianola on 25 Apr (\*AMJ-photo, RIA-photo).

**Carolina Wren:** 2 yg. fledged from a nest in an Iowa City carport shed on 19 May (THK). The most northerly report was from McIntosh Woods in Cerro Gordo Co. on 11 Apr (JLW).

**Bewick's Wren:** Birds returned to the junk yard near the Croton Unit and were seen by many.

**House Wren:** The first was in Iowa City on 24 Apr (DRP).

**Winter Wren:** 1-5 were reported from 17 locations with dates ranging from 28 Mar at Algona (MCK) to 11 May at Credit L. (PCP). Other May sightings were on the 4th at Grammer Grove (BPr) and Mason City (RAG) and at a different Mason City location on the 9th (RAG).

**Sedge Wren:** The first was at Moorehead P. on 1 May (PE).

**Marsh Wren:** The first 4 were at Otter Creek M. on 25 Apr (MPr).

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** A wave was at Sioux Center on 28 Mar (JV). Counts of 22 were noted at Croton Unit on 30 Mar (RIC) and Fairfield on 9 Apr (DCP). Singles were noted in May at Iowa City on the 1st (DRP), Grammer Grove (MPr) and Squaw Creek P. (JaD/JoD) on the 2nd, and Trumbull L. on the 3rd (LAS).

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** The first was unusually early at Sioux Center on 28 Mar (\*JV). High counts were 30 in Iowa City on 18 Apr (DRP) and 24 at Effigy Mounds on 24 Apr (DeC).

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** The first were noted on 24 Apr at Cardinal M. (DeC), Fairfield (DCP), and Cedar Rapids (JaD/JoD).

**Eastern Bluebird:** 24 nests were active in Cherokee Co. (DBi).

**Townsend's Solitaire:** The 2 wintering birds near Rock Falls in Cerro Gordo Co. were last seen on 3 Apr (CRN).

**Veery:** The first 3 were at Liscomb on 4 May (BPr).

**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** The first were found on 2 May in Marion (JaD/JoD) and Iowa City (THK).

**Swainson's Thrush:** The first were found on 2 May in Marion (JaD/JoD) and Iowa City (THK, DRP). Observers reported seeing many this year. The high count was 26 at Algona on 20 May (MCK). Migrants were still present at the end of the period.

**Hermit Thrush:** All reports were from April with a high count of 11 on the 24th at Effigy Mounds (DeC).

**Varied Thrush:** A male was at Carol Gunderson's feeder in Union on 21 Mar (MPr).

**Gray Catbird:** The first was at West Des Moines on 24 Apr (PHA/RIA).

**Northern Mockingbird:** 1 in Cherokee Co. on 7 May was only the second county record for Dick Bierman.

**Brown Thrasher:** The first was at Union Grove P. on 11 Apr (MPr).

**American Pipit:** None were reported, which seems unusual.

**Cedar Waxwing:** Several flocks were seen in late May; the largest was 70 at L. Macbride on 27 May (THK).

**Northern Shrike:** March reports were from Harper's Ferry on the 6th (JaD/JoD), near Amana on the 19th (JES), Dickinson Co. on the 20th (LAS), and Union Slough N.W.R. on the 23rd (MCK).

**Loggerhead Shrike:** Scattered singles and pairs were reported.

**White-eyed Vireo:** The first was in NW Johnson Co. on 1 May (THK, DRP).

**Solitary Vireo:** The first was in Polk Co. on 27 Apr (JSi), and the last was at Mason City on 26 May (JLW).

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** The first 2 were at Croton Unit on 25 Apr (RIC, THK).

**Warbling Vireo:** The first 2 were at Runnell's A. on 28 Apr (DRP).

**Philadelphia Vireo:** The first was at Swan L. in Johnson Co. on 8 May (JaD/JoD), and the last was at Trumbull L. on 30 May (LAS).

**Red-eyed Vireo:** The first was at Saylorville Res. on 28 Apr (DTh).

**Blue-winged Warbler:** The first and high count were 8 at Croton Unit on 1 May (RIC).

**Golden-winged Warbler:** The first was on 7 May at Lamb's Grove in Jasper Co. (GJB). The last was on 19 May in Cherokee Co. (DBi). This species was noted at 10 other locations.

- Tennessee Warbler:** The first was at Fairfield on 29 Apr (DCP). The last was at Call S.P. on 31 May (MCK). The high count was 50 at Hickory Hill P. on 12 May (DRP). On 8 May, 17 were feeding on the road at Ledges S.P. (MPR).
- Orange-crowned Warbler:** The first was in Polk Co. on 27 Apr (JSi), and the last was at Highlandville in Winneshiek Co. on 20 May (DeC)[3rd latest].
- Nashville Warbler:** The first was in Polk Co. on 27 Apr (JSi), and the last was at Trumbull L. on 30 May (LAS).
- Northern Parula:** The first was at Coralville Res. on 1 May (JaD/JoD). High counts of 8 were at Ledges S.P. on 8 May (DTh) and at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 15 May (DRP), with a nest at the latter location.
- Yellow Warbler:** The first were 2 at Cone M. on 27 Apr (DRP).
- Chestnut-sided Warbler:** The first was at Fairfield on 3 May (DCP)[ties 2nd earliest]. The last 2 were at Call S.P. on 30 May (MCK).
- Magnolia Warbler:** The first was in Polk Co. on 4 May (RIC), and the last was in Fairfield on 29 May (DCP).
- Cape May Warbler:** The first were on 7 May at Swan L. in Johnson Co. (JaD/JoD) and at Cherokee, the latter a first county record for Dick Bierman. The last 5 were at Algona on 20 May (MCK). A total of 30 birds were reported from 19 locations, which is more than are usually reported.
- Black-throated Blue Warbler:** Singles were in Dickinson Co. on 8 May (J. Knight fide LAS), at Credit L. on 11 May (PCP), and at Trumbull L. on 13 May (MMB).
- Yellow-rumped Warbler:** The first was at Trumbull L. on 2 Apr (LAS), and the last 3 were at Cardinal M. on 25 May (DeC). High count was 100 along the north shore of Clear L. on 10-11 May (THK).
- Black-throated Green Warbler:** The first were on 1 May with 7 at Walnut Woods (AMJ) and 1 at Peterson Pits in Story Co. (MPR). The last were on 31 May with 1 at Union Grove P. (MPR) and 3 at Call S.P. (MCK)[tie 2nd latest].
- Blackburnian Warbler:** Singles on 1 May were at Walnut Woods (AMJ) and Peterson Pits (MPR)[ties 3rd earliest]. The last was at Trumbull L. on 30 May (LAS).
- Yellow-throated Warbler:** In addition to the usual Lacey-Keosauqua and Ledges S.P. birds, singles were at Pine L. in Hardin Co. on 7 May (MPR) and at Big Sand Mound Preserve in Muscatine Co. on 9 and 11 May (PCP). At Pikes Peak S.P. in Clayton Co., 1 was heard on 25 May (KB).
- Pine Warbler:** Singles were at Cone M. on 27 Apr (\*THK) and at Hickory Hill P. on 15 May (\*JES).
- Palm Warbler:** The first was at Marshalltown on 20 Apr (Betty Savage fide MPR)[ties 2nd earliest]. The last was on 16 May at Cardinal M. (DeC). High counts were 30 on 30 Apr at Coralville Res. (JaD/JoD), 25 on 3 May in Linn Co. (DLD), and 24 on 9 May in Clay Co. (LAS).
- Bay-breasted Warbler:** The first was at Hickory Hill P. on 7 May (THK), and the last was there on 19 May (DRP).
- Blackpoll Warbler:** The first 2 were at Walnut Woods S.P. on 1 May (AMJ), and the last 2 were at Pine L. on 28 May (MPR). The high count was 13 at Moorehead P. on 12 May (PE). Others commented about large numbers this year.
- Cerulean Warbler:** The first was at Pine L. on 7 May (MPR). Others were at traditional locations except for singles at Trumbull L. on 9 May (LAS) and Stone P. on 15 May (BFH).
- Black-and-white Warbler:** The first was on 26 Apr at Croton Unit (RIC), and the last was on 26 May in West Des Moines (PHA/RIA).
- American Redstart:** The first was at Coralville Res. on 1 May (DRP)[ties 3rd earliest]. The high count was 40 in Allamakee Co. on 8 May (DeC).
- Prothonotary Warbler:** The first was on 1 May at Walnut Woods (AMJ). One at Cardinal M. on 29 May was a first Winneshiek Co. record for Dennis Carter. On 31 May, 1 was at Saylorville Res. (DTh).
- Worm-eating Warbler:** The first was at Croton Unit on 26 Apr (RIC). Others were found at Eagle L. in Hancock Co. on 8 May (LAS), at Big Sand Mound Preserve on 11 May (PCP), and at Coralville Res. on 11 May (TJS).
- Ovenbird:** The first 3 were at Croton Unit on 24 Apr (RIC). On 21 May, 3 at Trumbull L. (LAS) were likely migrants.
- Northern Waterthrush:** The first was at Fairfield on 23 Apr (DCP, details)[ties 3rd earliest]. The last was at Moorehead P. on 29 May (PE).



**Louisiana Waterthrush:** The first was at Croton Unit on 30 Mar (RIC)[ties record earliest]. In addition to the usual birds at Lacey-Keosauqua and Ledges S.P., singles were seen in Ames on 22 Apr (JJD) and at Wall Hollow in Mills Co. on 25 Apr (TEB).

**Kentucky Warbler:** The first was at Fairfield on 6 May (DCP).

**Connecticut Warbler:** The first was at Eagle L. in Hancock Co. on 8 May (LAS)[3rd earliest]. Another was early at Klum L. in Louisa Co. on 9 May (PCP). The last was at Trumbull L. on 30 May (LAS). More than usual were reported, with 20 birds from 11 locations.

**Mourning Warbler:** The first were on 8 May at Ledges S.P. (MPR, DTh) and Coralville Res. (THK). The last was at Coralville Res. on 31 May (THK). More than 40 were reported.

**Common Yellowthroat:** The first was at Croton Unit on 25 Apr (RIC).

**Hooded Warbler:** The first was at Hickory Hill P. on 29 Apr (JLF). In addition to the usual Croton Unit location, birds were seen at Pleasant Creek L. on 1 May (JaD/JoD), Stone P. on 1 May (BFH), Big Sand Mound Preserve on 4 and 9 May (PCP), Woodland Mounds in Warren Co. on 9 May (JSi), Hickory Hill P. on 18 and 20 May (DRP, JES), and Ida Grove on 27 May (\*PE). The last was a female that hit a window.

**Wilson's Warbler:** The first was a female in Warren Co. on 25 Apr (JSi)[record earliest]. The next was on 3 May at Union Grove P. (MPR).

**Canada Warbler:** The first was on 9 May at Boyson P. (JaD/JoD)[ties 3rd earliest]. On 31 May, 3 were still at Call S.P. (MCK). From 1-4 were reported from 14 locations.

**Yellow-breasted Chat:** The first was on 1 May at Croton Unit (RIC, RLC)[3rd earliest]. Unusual locations include Sioux Center (JV) and Spencer (LAS) on 8 May and Sioux City Prairie in Woodbury Co. on 13 May (BFH).

**Summer Tanager:** The first was at Ames on 5 May (HZ). A first-year male was at Lime Creek N.C. in Cerro Gordo Co. on 10 May (RAG, JLW). Others were at more traditional locations -- Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. and Wildcat Den S.P.

**Scarlet Tanager:** The first was at Croton Unit on 1 May (RIC).

**Western Tanager:** Males appeared on 10 May at Lime Creek N.C. in Cerro Gordo Co. on 10 May (\*CRN) and at L. Manawa on 11 May (\*BJR-photos, BKP/LJP-details).

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** The first was at Fairfield on 29 Apr (DCP).

**Blue Grosbeak:** A pair was near Turkey Run Access in Lee Co. on 15 May (AMJ), a location where they have been found in recent years. The only other report was from e of IPL Ponds on 30 May (BKP/LJP).

**Rufous-sided Towhee:** 4 at Croton Unit on 30 Mar (RIC) may have been early arrivals.

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** The first was on 28 Apr in NW Johnson Co. (THK), and the last 2 were at Trumbull L. on 15 May (LAS). There were reports from six other locations.

**Field Sparrow:** The first was at Fairfield on 6 Apr (DCP).

**Vesper Sparrow:** The first 4 were in Wayne Co. on 28 Mar (RLC).

**Lark Sparrow:** The first was at Croton Unit on 25 Apr (THK).

**Black-throated Sparrow:** Maurice and Ruby Hanson discovered Iowa's first record of this species at their feeder in Waterloo on 16 Mar, and it was seen by many observers (\*JLF, \*PCP, \*MPR, \*THK, \*JES, \*DRP, \*RLC) and photographed (RIA, THK, Des Moines Register). The bird remained until at least 9 Apr (JJD).

**Savannah Sparrow:** 2 were in NW Cerro Gordo Co. by 27 Mar (JLW).

**Henslow's Sparrow:** Birds at several locations south and west of Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. were reported by many. Elsewhere, 3 were seen near Melbourne in Marshall Co. on 26 May (Matthew Patterson fide JJD).

**Le Conte's Sparrow:** 1 was at Larson's M. in Story Co. on 17 Apr (MPR), and 2 were at Cone M. on 27 Apr (THK).

**Sharp-tailed Sparrow:** 1 was at Snake Creek M. on 19 May (PHA/RIA).

**Fox Sparrow:** The first was at Hawarden on 27 Mar (JV). The last at Trumbull L. on 23 Apr (LAS)[ties 3rd latest]. On 3 Apr, 42 were at Saylorville Res. (BEN).

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** The first were on 24 Apr at Johnston (DTh) and at Larson's M. (MPR). The last was at Mason City on 25 May (CJF).

**Swamp Sparrow:** 34 were at Cardinal M. on 21 Apr (DeC).

**White-throated Sparrow:** The last was at Sioux Center on 29 May (JV).

**White-crowned Sparrow:** The last was at Ames on 22 May (PM).

**Harris's Sparrow:** A fall 1992 sighting from Allamakee Co. should have been from Cardinal M. in Winneshiek Co. (DeC). The last was on 30 May at Trumbull L. (LAS)[record latest], and 2 were at Sioux Center on 25 May (JV)[ties 2nd latest].

**Dark-eyed Junco:** The last was on 1 May at Algona (MCK).

**Lapland Longspur:** The high count was 500 n of Mason City on 29 Mar (CRN). The few reports were from 26 Mar to 2 Apr, suggesting that birds passed through the state more quickly than usual.

**Smith's Longspur:** The only report was of 1 n of Mason City on 31 Mar (CRN, details).

**Snow Bunting:** Flocks of 100 were noted in Kossuth Co. on 2 Mar (MCK) and in Marshall Co. on 22 Mar (MPr). Late birds were in Grundy Co. on 26 Mar (MPr) and n of Mason City on 1 Apr (CRN)[3rd latest].

**Bobolink:** The first was at Hickory Hill P. on 2 May (DRP).

**Red-winged Blackbird:** 2,000 females (no males) were at Pickerel L. in Buena Vista Co. on 16 Apr (MMB).

**Eastern Meadowlark:** 1 was singing at Red Rock Res. by 21 Mar (JSi).

**Yellow-headed Blackbird:** 65 were at Otter Creek M. by 22 Apr (DRP).

**Rusty Blackbird:** The high count was 200 in Appanoose Co. on 14 Apr (RLC).

**Brewer's Blackbird:** Details were given for 6 at McIntosh Woods on 27 Mar (JLW) and 8 s of Granger on 21 Apr (MPr).

**Great-tailed Grackle:** The first male was at Lakin Sl. on 21 Apr (MPr). The first for Cherokee Co. were a pair nesting on 19 May at Redtail Ridge Access (DBi, MMB). Others were 7 at Long Pond on 25 and 28 Apr (AMJ, MPr, PHA, RIA-photo), 6 at IPL Ponds on 9 May (BKP/LJP), 1 at Otter Creek M. on 13 May (THK), and 4 at Goose L. in Greene Co. on 22 May (JJD).

**Orchard Oriole:** The first was in Cass Co. on 7 May (MAP). There were seven reports from the eastern half of the state where this species is relatively less common than in the west.

**Northern Oriole:** The first were on 28 Apr in Warren Co. (AMJ, DRP). A "Bullock's" Oriole was in Clemons in Marshall Co. on 12 May ("HH").

**Purple Finch:** The last were 3 at Hickory Hill P. on 3 May (DRP).

**Pine Siskin:** Several were in Ames on 23 May (Mark Widrechner fide JJD). Eight other observers reported last sightings from 5 to 17 May.

## CONTRIBUTORS

\* = documentation only

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## COMMENT

The number of records entered into the computer database (1,573) was up 18% from two years ago, and the number of observers (48) was up 12%. The number of documentations (34) was 52% of the number for 1991 and there were fewer new early and late dates. The cool weather and lack of shorebirds are likely responsible for some of the decrease.

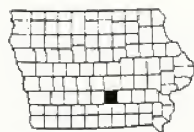
I thank Carl Bendorf for preparing the weather summary. Jim Fuller was not able to help with the report this year. He was in Alaska. The reports from several active birders who report infrequently added considerably to the coverage this year. There are still rarities called in to the Birdline that we do not get reported to the Field Reports.

211 Richards Street, Iowa City, IA 52246

## A WINTERING PINE WARBLER IN MARION COUNTY

TIM SCHANTZ AND GLADYS BLACK

On 9 January 1992, Schantz received a phone call from Black. She mentioned that she had had either an Orange-crowned or Pine warbler coming to her east window shelf feeder since 19 December. The next morning, Schantz arrived at 10:30 a.m. Black was gone but left a lawn chair near the feeder. At 11:00 he heard a *Dendroica* chip note from the neighbor's yard to the east. Then a warbler flew from a pine tree in that yard and landed in a tree above the feeder. The bird was 20 yards away in good light, and Schantz immediately recognized it as a Pine Warbler. The head and back were dark greenish and unstreaked. The wings and tail were gray with two white wing bars. The tail appeared long, and the undertail coverts were white. The throat and breast had a bright yellow wash. The brightness of the yellow on the breast and the lack of dark streaking on the sides suggested that the bird was probably a non-breeding plumage male. The bird moved to a tree near the feeder and ate some peanut butter smeared in a knot hole. The warbler was harassed by House Finches and flew to a conifer in the neighbor's yard to the west. Schantz left a note on his identification and left to call the Iowa Birdline.



Black's journals provide an excellent day-to-day record of the bird's activities as well as who came to see it. The following are some of the more interesting journal entries:

December 19, 1991-A little warbler on the roofed east window shelf feeder. Lighting is poor. Picking up small pieces of sunflower seeds. House Finches and goldfinches also on the shelf. Little warbler would just move away if finches were aggressive. Stayed on the shelf about three minutes. What is it? Here in Iowa the only warbler I have ever seen in December is an Orange-crowned two years ago. Darkish head, back, wings, tail (slight bars on wings), clear yellow throat and breast. Tail is notched.

December 25, 1991-Sunshine and the little warbler make this a happy Christmas for me. A warbler in Iowa now! On the shelf two times today. Bright green and yellow. A gorgeous bird.

January 15, 1992-Terrific northwest winds. Two inches of snow. Wind chill 50 below zero, the worst night I have seen here in 35 years. I am sure the Pine Warbler must have died last night!

January 16, 1992-No warbler.

January 23, 1993-A miracle, the Pine Warbler was here from 9:30-9:50 a.m. It did not return until after 11:00 a.m. This is such a happy day for me. I phone Tim Schantz and the Iowa Rare Bird Alert.

The Pine Warbler was last seen on 10 February 1992. Many birders from around the state came to see it. Black kept birders updated by placing a note on a stake in the front yard.

Pine Warblers are one of the few warblers that winter mainly in the southern United States. They prefer pine woodlands to breed and winter. On their breeding grounds they are mainly insectivorous. In winter, however, they will eat nutmeats, corn meal, and suet at feeding stations. This is the first report of a Pine Warbler wintering in Iowa. There are winter records for Wisconsin, Illinois, and even as far north as Ontario, Quebec, and Nova Scotia.

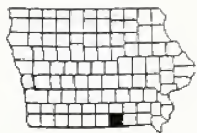
A census of coniferous trees around Black's house yielded 45 trees in three square city blocks, somewhat resembling the open pine woodlands that Pine Warblers typically winter in.

*Cordova Park, Route 1, Otley, IA 50214 and Pleasantville, IA 50225*

## RED PHALAROPE AT RATHBUN RESERVOIR

THOMAS H. KENT

On 8 November 1992 at 7:55 a.m. I was driving the partially flooded road along the south side of Rathbun Reservoir at Island View Recreation Area in Appanoose County when I noticed a very white looking medium-sized shorebird in a flooded ditch. Its shape and constant spinning behavior identified it as a phalarope. The underparts were all white. The bill was black, straight, and slightly tapered but not to a sharp point. The black on the top of the head extended to a thin black line down the back of the neck and broadened at the base of the neck. There was a broad black mark that included the eye. The back and scapulars were uniform gray (no streaks). The wing coverts were darker. In flight the upper surface of the forewing and back were uniform gray with a well-defined white wing stripe, and darker gray along the trailing edge. The upper tail coverts were lighter than the tail. There was a gray wash on the sides of the breast. On the standing bird, the primaries appeared black. The legs were black.



The uniform forewing and back and the thickness of the bill separated this species from Red-necked Phalarope. Also, the late fall date is not unusual for Red Phalarope records in the Midwest. This bird was quite cooperative and was seen by others during the rest of the day and the next day.

*211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246*



# I.O.U. BUSINESS

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

*Saturday, 3 April 1993, Algona, 1-3:45 p.m.*

ANN M. BARKER, FOR HILDA SICKELS

Present: Ann Barker (presiding), Pam Allen, Bob Cecil, Rick Hollis, Diane Porter, Mark Proescholdt, Harold White. Others present: Reid Allen, Beth Brown, Dan Dorrance, Ann Johnson, Matt Kenne, Tom Kent, Beth Proescholdt, Lee Schoenewe, Carol Thompson, and Russ Widner.

The minutes of the 7 November 1992 meeting were approved as revised (motion by Allen, seconded by Proescholdt).

Treasurer Allen distributed financial statements for 1992, including a balance sheet, statement of support, revenues and expenses, and membership information, as well as a final copy of the 1993 budget. The report was accepted.

### Committee Reports

**Records:** Kent reported that the final batch of 1992 records is being reviewed and the report should be on time. A subcommittee will review old records which were not reviewed in 1982. An amendment will be made to the committee's working guidelines which will make it easier to request a re-review and more difficult to downgrade a record. Information on costs of archiving records was distributed and discussed. Kent questioned the committee's jurisdiction over field reports and photographs. It was clarified that the committee was given responsibility for archiving all photographs as well as all records (see minutes for 7 December 1991 board meeting). Kent was commended by the board for all of his hard work.

**Membership:** Names of interested potential members from the feeder survey were given to the committee, and a mailing will be done. Two positions will need to be filled in 1993.

**Publications:** *Iowa Bird Life* editor Jim Dinsmore will be out of state during fall 1993. He plans to publish issues 2 and 3 of vol. 63 prior to his departure, and issue 4 on his return in December. The journal's annual report was distributed. Expenses for volume 62 were slightly less than projected.

**Library-Historical:** The committee will need to recommend two members to fill expiring terms this year. Kent reported that the book collection belonging to the late Fred Pierce, former editor of *Iowa Bird Life*, has apparently been sold.

**Breeding Bird Atlas:** Thompson reported that species accounts are still being written; the committee will meet 2 May. Award certificates will be presented to volunteers at the spring meeting. The committee has asked the board to consider four publication options, as follows:

1. Have the book published by a publisher such as University of Iowa Press. The cost of the book would be around \$50.
2. Give an initial payment such as \$10,000 to the publisher in an effort to keep the cost of the book lower.
3. Let the I.O.U. publish the book, if this is an option.
4. The I.O.U. could print but not distribute the book.

The Department of Natural Resources has committed \$9,000 toward publication. After discussion, it was as moved (Hollis, seconded by White) that a decision on how much to contribute to the publication be tabled until further information about the specific cost of each alternative can be obtained. Motion carried.

**Education Booklet Promotion:** Hollis reported that Linda Zaletel and the Iowa Conservation Education Council are working on promotion of the booklet. The committee will meet and formulate plans, possibly including a mailing.

**Spring Bird Count:** Plans are set for the first count to be held 9 May. An announcement will be in the newsletter. The committee has not met.

**Field Trip:** An annual report was submitted; there are five trips scheduled for 1993. The committee was commended for its excellent organization and hard work.

**Nominating:** Barker thanked the committee (Jim Dinsmore-chair, Beth Brown, and Beth Proescholdt) for their work in preparing a slate of candidates to run for election to office at the spring meeting. The slate is:

President: Ann Barker  
Vice President: Jim Fuller  
Board of Directors: O.J. (Bud) Gode  
Matthew Kenne

Harold White (second term)

I.O.U. display: Hollis reported that some repair and refurbishing has been done.

Birdline: The annual report prepared by Jim Fuller was distributed. Usage has increased significantly for the fifth straight year.

### Old Business

Upcoming meetings: Cecil reported that plans for the spring meeting at Keosauqua are set. The fall meeting will be in Spencer at a new county conservation board facility. Lee Schoenewe is in charge of arrangements. The spring 1994 meeting is tentatively planned for Ames. Possible locations for the fall 1994 meeting were discussed. The board was interested in meeting in Centerville.

Rick Hollis has received a late reply to his inquiring about access to birding areas from the D.N.R. Access to refuges will not be allowed because of management concerns, but many waterfowl areas are opened earlier than posted dates.

The question of whether to adopt a code of ethics was considered, and two sample codes were distributed. After discussion, it was moved (White, seconded by Cecil) that we adopt the code modeled on the American Birding Association code. The motion was amended to state that we recommend to the membership the adoption of said code. The amendment and the main motion were defeated on split votes. It was then moved (Porter, seconded by Cecil) to recommend to the membership that a code of ethics be adopted. The motion failed, again on a split vote.

Thompson has finished an updated directory of birding organizations in Iowa, and inquired about publication. Suggestions including publishing it in the newsletter or selling it as a fund raiser. The consensus was that the board would like to see it published in the *I.O.U. News*. The feasibility of this will be discussed with the editors.

### New Business

The possibility of a dues increase for 1994 was discussed. It was moved (Cecil, seconded by Hollis) to recommend to the membership that the dues structure remain the same for 1994. Motion carried.

Russ Widner and Bob Cecil had received a communication from an individual interested in having the I.O.U. sponsor bird song workshops. A minimum number of participants would be guaranteed. Board members were concerned that this minimum could not be guaranteed. It was moved (Hollis, seconded by White) that the Vice-president investigate recruiting outside speakers for spring and fall meetings, using money in the meeting fund. Motion carried.

A letter had been received from Walter Rosene, Gadsden, Alabama, whose father was a life-long member of I.O.U. concerning the history of how the Goldfinch was selected as the state bird. Allen will send a copy to the State Historian and to the Johnson County Songbird Project, owner of Althea Sherman's Chimney Swift tower.

Porter announced that she and her husband Michael plan to videotape and interview birders at the spring meeting.

